

Vote YES for House Bill 999 - Veterinary Practice Act Revisions

The Georgia General Assembly passed a major revision of the Veterinary Practice Act in 2003. HB 999 addresses three minor problems that have been identified in the law since that time. HB 999 will:

1. Clarify the State Board of Veterinary Medicine's authority to regulate the scope of work of veterinary technicians and assistants

In the fall of 2004, the Attorney General advised the State Board of Veterinary Medicine that the statute did not allow them to regulate work activities of veterinary technicians and assistants, as was first thought. HB 999 will address this issue by:

- 0 Clarifying the authority of the State Board of Veterinary Medicine to regulate the degree of supervision required for veterinary technicians and veterinary assistants to perform various animal health care tasks, and*
- 0 Designating certain tasks that cannot be performed by veterinary assistants.*

2. Extend the "grandfather clause" that allows veterinary assistants with bona fide work experience to sit for the examination to become a veterinary technician

The grandfather clause that was incorporated into the practice act in 2003 expired in 2005. Because of its success and because of the continuing severe shortage of veterinary technicians throughout Georgia, HB 999 will extend the examination deadline to July 1, 2009.

3. Delete reference to "homeopathy and botanical medicine"

*Exclusion of "homeopathy and botanical medicine" from the definition of the practice of veterinary medicine has prompted malpractice insurance carriers to notify Georgia veterinarians that they will not be covered **if** a liability claim arises from a case involving these treatment modalities. Striking the phrase and allowing the Act to be silent on this topic makes it consistent with practice acts in other states and solves the insurance problem for Georgia veterinarians.*

HB 999 is endorsed by:

- **State Board of Veterinary Medicine**
- **Georgia Veterinary Medical Association**
- **Georgia Department of Agriculture**